

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A communications system, comprising:  
~~of~~ an information processing apparatus; and  
an information management apparatus operable to manage  
contents, in which;

said information processing apparatus including:

~~includes:~~

playing means for playing content provided from  
said information management apparatus via a network;

first request means for requesting that said  
information management apparatus ~~to~~ store a time stamp ~~and in~~  
association with predetermined identification information ~~in~~  
~~association when it is instructed,~~ while said content is played  
by said playing means, in response to an instruction that the  
said time stamp representing the playing position of said  
content at that moment be stored; and

second request means for transmitting ~~notifying~~  
~~said information management apparatus of~~ said identification  
information to said information management apparatus and for  
requesting the playing of said content from ~~the~~ said playing  
position represented by said time stamp, ~~and wherein~~

~~is characterized in that:~~

said identification information includes  
information allotted to each user and information allotted to  
each user group, and

said playing means is operable to plays said  
content from said playing position represented by said time  
stamp ~~provided from said information management apparatus in~~  
accordance with the request by said second request means; ~~and~~

said information management apparatus including:

~~\_\_\_\_\_includes:~~

providing means for providing said content to said information processing apparatus via said network; and

storing means for storing said time stamp ~~and in~~ association with said identification information ~~in association~~ ~~in accordance with the request from said information processing apparatus, and wherein~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_is characterized in that:~~

said providing means is operable to ~~provides~~ said content from ~~the~~ said playing position represented by said time stamp when, ~~from~~ said information processing apparatus, transmits said identification information ~~is notified and requests~~ the playing of said content from ~~the~~ said playing position represented by said time stamp ~~stored by said storing means is requested.~~

2. (currently amended) A communications method in a communication system ~~comprising of~~ including an information processing apparatus and an information management apparatus operable to manage contents, ~~in which the communication method comprising:~~

~~----- an information processing method of said information processing apparatus~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_comprises:~~

~~a playing step of playing content provided from~~ said information management apparatus via a network;

~~a first request step of requesting that said~~ information management apparatus ~~to store~~ a time stamp ~~and in~~ association with predetermined identification information ~~in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of during said playing step, in response to an instruction to store that the said time stamp representing the a playing position of said content at that moment be stored; and~~

~~a second request step of notifying said information management apparatus of transmitting said identification information to said information management apparatus and requesting the playing of said content from the said playing position represented by said time stamp, said identification information including information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and~~

~~is characterized in that:~~

~~— said playing step plays said content from the said playing position represented by said time stamp provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with said step of requesting the playing the request by the process of said second request step is played by the process of said playing step,; and~~

~~— an information management method of said information management apparatus~~

~~comprises:~~

~~— a providing step of providing said content to said information processing apparatus via said network; and~~

~~a storing step of storing a said time stamp and in association with said identification information; and in association in accordance with the request from said information processing apparatus, and~~

~~is characterized in that:~~

~~providing said content to said information processing apparatus via said network is provided by the process of said providing step from a said playing position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said transmitting step transmits said identification information is notified and said step of requesting the playing requests the playing of said content from the said playing position represented by said time stamp stored by the process of said storing step is requested.~~

3. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus,  
~~characterized by having: comprising:~~

playing means for playing content provided via a network from an information management apparatus managing said content ~~via a network;~~

first request means for requesting said that the information management apparatus ~~to store a time stamp and in~~ association with predetermined identification information ~~in~~ association when it is instructed, while said content is played by said playing means, that in response to an instruction to store said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment be stored; and

second request means for transmitting said identification information to the information management apparatus and for requesting the playing of said content from ~~the~~ said playing position represented by said time stamp, and wherein

~~characterized in that:~~

said identification information includes information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and

said playing means is operable to plays said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp ~~provided from said information management apparatus in~~ accordance with the request by said second request means.

4. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein:~~

~~in a case where storage of said time stamp is instructed when it is instructed that the playing of said content be stopped,~~ said first request means may is operable to request that the information management apparatus ~~to stop~~ providing said

content as well as to and store said time stamp upon issuance of an instruction to stop the playing of said content.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising:

~~characterized by further having~~ third request means for requesting that a viewing status information management apparatus that manages viewing status information ~~to store~~ viewing status information representing a viewing status of said content, ~~and~~

~~characterized in that wherein~~ said second request means is operable to request the playing of said content from ~~the~~ said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said viewing status of said content represented by said viewing status information.

7. (currently amended) An information processing method, ~~characterized by including~~ comprising:

~~a playing step of playing content provided from said~~ an information management apparatus via a network;

~~a first request step of requesting said~~ that the information management apparatus ~~to store~~ a time stamp ~~and in association with predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed,~~ while said content is played ~~by the process of~~ during said playing step, in response to an instruction to store ~~that the~~ said time stamp representing ~~the~~ a playing position of said content at that moment ~~be stored;~~ and

~~a second request step of notifying said information management apparatus of~~ transmitting said identification information to the information management apparatus and requesting the playing of said content from ~~the~~ said playing

position represented by said time stamp, said identification information including information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and the playing step plays, and

~~characterized in that:~~

~~—said content from the~~said playing position represented by said time stamp ~~provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with said step of requesting the playing. the request by the process of said second request step is played by the process of said playing step.~~

8. (currently amended) A recording medium having recorded therein a computer readable program for carrying out an information processing method, said ~~program~~information processing method comprising:

~~characterized by including:~~

~~a playing step of playing content provided from said~~an information management apparatus via a network;

~~a first request step of requesting said that the information management apparatus to store a time stamp and in association with predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of during said playing step, that the in response to an instruction to store said time stamp representing thea playing position of said content at that moment be stored; and~~

~~a second request step of notifying said information management apparatus of transmitting said identification information to the information management apparatus and requesting the playing of said content from the~~said playing position represented by said time stamp, andsaid identification information including information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and the playing step plays

~~\_\_\_\_\_characterized in that:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_said content from the~~said playing position represented by said time stamp ~~provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with~~ said step of requesting the playing~~the request by the process of said second request step is played by the process of said playing step.~~

9. (currently amended) A system for processing information, ~~comprising: program to be executed by a computer,~~ characterized by including:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and  
instructions for carrying out an information  
processing method, the information processing method including:

~~a playing step of playing content provided from said~~an  
information management apparatus via a network;

~~a first request step of requesting said~~that the  
information management apparatus ~~to store a time stamp and~~in  
association with predetermined identification information in  
association when it is instructed, while said content is played  
by the process ofduring said playing step, ~~that the~~in response  
to an instruction to store said time stamp representing thea  
playing position of said content at that moment~~be stored; and~~

~~a second request step of notifying said information~~  
management apparatus ~~of~~transmitting said identification  
information to the information management apparatus and  
requesting the playing of said content from ~~the~~said playing  
position represented by said time stamp, said identification  
information including information allotted to each user and  
information allotted to each user group, and the playing step  
playsand

~~\_\_\_\_\_characterized in that:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_said content from the~~said playing position represented by said time stamp ~~provided from said information management~~

~~apparatus~~ in accordance with said step of requesting the  
~~playing the request by the process of said second request step is~~  
~~played by the process of said playing step.~~

10. (currently amended) An information management apparatus,  
comprising:

~~—characterized by including:~~

providing means for providing via a network  
predetermined content to an information processing apparatus  
~~that is connected via said a network; and~~

storing means for storing a time stamp, which  
~~represents a playing position for said content provided by said~~  
~~providing means, and in association with predetermined~~  
identification information ~~in association in accordance with a~~  
request from ~~said the~~ information processing apparatus, said time  
stamp representing a playing position of said content provided  
by said providing means, wherein and

~~—characterized in that:~~

said providing means is operable to provide said  
content from the playing position represented by said time stamp  
when, ~~from said the~~ information processing apparatus, transmits  
said identification information ~~is notified and requests that~~  
~~the playing of said content be played from the playing position~~  
represented by said time stamp ~~stored by said storing means is~~  
requested.

11. (currently amended) The information management apparatus  
as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

~~characterized by further including viewing status~~  
information storing means for storing viewing status  
information, ~~which represents~~ ing a viewing status of said  
content, in accordance with a request from ~~said the~~ information  
processing apparatus, ~~and~~



~~wherein characterized in that, in a case where said viewing status represented by said viewing status information stored by said viewing status information storing means indicates that said content has not been played to the end, said providing means~~ is operable to provide said content from the playing position represented by said time stamp when the viewing status of said content represented by the viewing status information indicates that said content has not been played to the end.

12. (currently amended) An information management method, ~~characterized by including~~ comprising:

~~a providing step of providing via a network~~  
predetermined content to an information processing apparatus ~~that is connected via the~~ a network; and

~~a storing step of storing a time stamp, which represents a playing position for said content provided by the process of said providing step, and~~ in association with predetermined identification information in association in accordance with a request from said the information processing apparatus, and said time stamp representing a playing position of said content provided by said providing step, wherein  
~~characterized in that:~~

~~said content is provided by the process of said providing step~~ provides said content from the playing position represented by said time stamp when, from said the information processing apparatus, said transmits said identification information is notified and requests that the playing of said content be played from the playing position represented by said time stamp stored by the process of said storing step is requested.

13. (currently amended) A recording medium having recorded therein a computer readable program for carrying out an

information management method, the information management method comprising:

~~characterized by including:~~

~~a providing step of providing via a network~~  
predetermined content to an information processing apparatus  
~~that is connected via the~~ network; and

~~a storing step of storing a time stamp, which~~  
~~represents a playing position for said content provided by the~~  
~~process of said providing step, and in association with~~  
predetermined identification information in association in  
accordance with a request from ~~said~~ the information processing  
apparatus, and said time stamp representing a playing position  
of said content provided by said providing step, wherein

~~characterized in that:~~

~~said content is provided by the process of said~~  
providing step provides said content from the playing position  
represented by said time stamp when, ~~from said the~~ information  
processing apparatus, said transmits said identification  
information is notified and requests that the playing of said  
content be played from the playing position represented by said  
time stamp. ~~stored by the process of said storing step is~~  
~~requested.~~

14. (currently amended) A system for managing information,  
comprising:~~program to be executed by a computer,~~

~~characterized by including:~~

a processor operable to execute instructions; and  
instructions for carrying out an information  
management method, the information management method including:

~~a providing step of providing via a network~~  
predetermined content to an information processing apparatus  
~~that is connected via the~~ network; and

~~a storing step of storing a time stamp, which~~  
~~represents a playing position for said content provided by the~~  
~~process of said providing step, and in association with~~  
~~predetermined identification information in association in~~  
~~accordance with a request from said the information processing~~  
~~apparatus, and said time stamp representing a playing position of~~  
~~said content provided by said providing step, wherein~~  
~~characterized in that:~~

~~said content is provided by the process of said~~  
~~providing step provides said content from the playing position~~  
~~represented by said time stamp when, from said the information~~  
~~processing apparatus, transmits said identification information~~  
~~is notified and requests that the playing of said content be~~  
~~played from the playing position represented by said time stamp~~  
~~stored by the process of said storing step is requested.~~